

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-05
ACDA-12 /094 W

-----007713 091621Z /50

O R 091539Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3548
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION SINAI

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7350

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP IS
SUBJ: MYSTERY SURROUNDS WEIZMAN'S TRIP TO EUROPE

REF.: TEL AVIV 7333

1. ISRAEL MEDIA AND PRESS JUNE 9 CARRY REPORTS ON WEIZMAN'S "SUDDEN" VISIT TO EUROPE AND RUMORS OF SECRET MEETINGS.
2. JERUSALEM POST RULES OUT SPECULATION HE WAS SEEKING CONTACT THROUGH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH MODERATE ARAB LEADERS AND QUOTES ISRAEL EMBASSY IN LONDON AS SAYING WEIZMAN MET NO BRITISH OFFICIALS. THE POST MENTIONS THAT DEFENSE MINISTER DINED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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LORD ROTHSCHILD AND WITH MARS & SPENCER CHAIRMAN SIR MARCUS SIEFF.

3. OTHER PAPERS, INCLUDING YEDIOT, AL HAMISHMAR AND DAVAR, CLAIM WEIZMAN MET WITH NON-ARAB FIGURE IN EUROPE. ALLEGED MEETING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS, BUT DEALT WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY AFFAIRS WHICH HAD POLITICAL

RAMIFICATIONS "AND THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION HAS IMPORTANCE FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL."

4. HAARETZ (SCHIFF) CLAIMS WEIZMAN'S TRIP TO ZURICH WAS NO COINCIDENCE, BASED ON RUMORS THAT HE MET THERE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY. SCHIFF ALSO ALLUDED TO RUMOR THAT WEIZMAN ALTERNATIVELY MADE SIDE TRIP TO MOROCCO WHERE HE MET WITH KING HASSAN (REFTEL).

5. MAARIV (TIROSH) SPECULATES THAT WEIZMAN MAY HAVE MET WITH SENIOR POLITICIAN WHO IS NOT AN ARAB OR AFRICAN LEADER.

6. DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES, IN ATTEMPT TO SQUELCH SPECULATION, DENIED THAT THE TRIP WAS LINKED TO THE PEACE PROCESS OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. LEWIS

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Disposition Event:
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